

that it stands for was written by their lives. The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history. It represents the experiences made by men and women, the experiences of those who do and live under the flag."

Flag Day was officially designated a National observance by a Joint Resolution approved by Congress and the President in 1949, and first celebrated the following year. This year, then, marks the 51st anniversary of a Congressionally designated Flag Day.

It is appropriate that we pause today, on this Flag Day, to render our respect and honor to the symbol of our Nation, and to review our commitment to the underlying principles it represents. Today, let us reflect on the deeds and sacrifices of those who have gone before and the legacy they left to us. Let us ponder our own endeavors and the inheritance we will leave to future generations.

Finally, as we commemorate the heritage our flag represents, may we as a Nation pledge not only our allegiance, but also our efforts to furthering the standards represented by its colors—courage, virtue, perseverance, and justice. Through these universal concepts, We the People can ensure better lives for ourselves and our children, for these are the characteristics of greatness. In doing so, we can move closer to the goal so well stated by Daniel Webster at the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument on June 17, 1825. On that occasion he said, "Let our object be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country. And, by the blessing of God, may that country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of Wisdom, of Peace, and of Liberty, upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever."

I have long supported legislation which imposes penalties on anyone who knowingly mutilates, defaces, burns, tramples upon, or physically defiles any U.S. flag. I have also supported a constitutional amendment to grant Congress and the States the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. I regret that the Senate has yet to adopt a Resolution for a flag protection Constitutional amendment.

I am pleased that the Senate adopted a Resolution to provide for a designated Senator to lead the Senate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States. This has added greatly to the opening of the Senate each day.

Today I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to take note of the history and meaning of this 14th day of June. We celebrate our Flag, observing its 224th birthday, and the 226-year-old Army which has so proudly and valiantly defended it and our great Nation.

#### MICHIGAN'S GUN LAWS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on New Years Day 2001, the Governor of Michi-

gan signed into law a bill to take discretion away from local gun boards to issue concealed gun licenses and require authorities to issue concealed weapons licenses to any one 21 years or older without a criminal record, with limited exceptions. Under the law, the number of concealed handgun licenses in our State would grow by 200,000 to 300,000 a ten-fold increase. Needless to say, the law has the potential to increase gun violence in Michigan and endanger the lives of thousands of people. I strongly believe that this law is better suited to the old West than the new millennium.

I am pleased to report that hundreds of thousands of my fellow Michiganders agree with me. While the law was scheduled to take effect on July 1st of this year, a coalition of law enforcement and community groups from across our State called the People Who Care About Kids collected 232,582 signatures on a petition to suspend the law and put it before the voters in 2002. One of those signatures was mine.

Now the issue is before the courts. Just last month, a State Appeals Court ruled unanimously that the referendum process should proceed. And this Wednesday the Michigan Supreme Court heard arguments on whether the Appeals Court ruling should stand. For the good of my State and for the safety of its citizens, I hope that the Supreme Court upholds the lower court ruling and lets the voters decide the issue. If voters are given the opportunity, I am confident that this wrongheaded effort to roll back Michigan's gun laws will be defeated.

#### BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, in this morning's Washington Post we finally hear the truth. President pro tempore ROBERT C. BYRD tells it like it is. Republican and Democrat, White House and Congress, and the people generally take heed.

I ask consent that an article from the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, June 14, 2001]

#### INHERITED MESS

(By Robert C. Byrd)

The president's budget director, Mitchell Daniels, has made an impassioned plea [opted, June 5] for Congress to achieve an "orderly and responsible budget and appropriations process" this year despite the sudden turn-about in the Senate from Republican to Democratic control.

While lauding the president's continuing efforts to civilize the tone of business in Washington, Daniels blamed Congress for routinely circumventing budget resolution ceilings to fund runaway appropriations. This year, he predicted, would have been different had the Republicans maintained control of the Senate, and he exhorted Democrats to withstand the siren song of "games and gimmicks" in the appropriations process so as to avoid upsetting the budget apple cart.

Unfortunately, the deck is stacked against the appropriators. The dice are loaded. The wheel is rigged. Regardless of whether a Democrat or a Republican chairs the Appropriations Committee, the unrealistically low budget targets and tax-cut combo will again perpetuate a yearly hoax on the American people.

Despite all the brave talk of fiscal restraint, the Appropriations committees will quietly be asked to spend more money than the budget allows. We know the president will ask us to spend billions more on defense. We know we will be asked to spend billions more on education. We know we have billions of dollars in both unmet and unanticipated needs that we will have a responsibility to fund.

We know this. The president knows this. The president's budget director well knows this. The American people should know this. The American people are entitled to truth in budgeting. These programs are not just the priorities of a Democratic Senate. These are the priorities of the president. They are the priorities of the nation. They have to be addressed.

Here is the true state of affairs. The budget pays lip service to sizable funding increases for national security, but it doesn't back up its promises with the necessary resources. For non-defense programs, the budget falls \$5.5 billion below the level necessary just to keep pace with inflation. What this means is that the nation is fiscally frozen in time, unable to reduce massive backlogs in critical programs that have been piling up for years, and equally unable to anticipate emerging needs.

Simply put, the budget resolution and the tax cut combined deny the resources that Congress—regardless of which party is in power—needs to meet a growing nation's requirements. The scarce dollars that are needed for education, Social Security, Medicare, prescription drug benefits and the many other important priorities of the American people will have to come from somewhere.

Democrats do not want to resort to gimmicks or game. We were outraged when the Republicans resorted to them—when they hijacked the budget from the Budget Committee over the objections of the Democrats, and then added insult to injury by shutting Democrats out of the conference process. But when a budget resolution allows for a massive tax-cut proposal yet fails to allow for the increased funding for national defense and for education that we all know the president will request, the "evasions and gimmickry" have begun.

Appropriators welcome cooperation. We encourage flexibility. We seek good-faith dealings with the White House and with both sides of the aisle. We ask only that the administration reciprocate in kind. A good place to start would be to avoid preemptive finger pointing in the media.

To attempt to back the Senate Appropriations Committee into a corner by suggesting that Democrats are suddenly in a position to derail "the first orderly, responsible budget and appropriations process in many years" is to belie the facts. The budget process was anything but "orderly and responsible" this year. In fact, the budget process has been convenient political cover for "games and gimmickry" for several years. And we all know it.

This is the scenario that the Democratic Senate has inherited, and this is the reality that Congress and the administration face in the coming months as we work our way through the appropriations process.

The Senate Appropriations Committee will review the details of the president's budget and we will, on a bipartisan basis, do our best to produce 13 responsible and disciplined